Sarpanch, supply of allopathic and indigenous medicines and provision of an additional worker (male multipurpose worker or additional ANM), depending on availability of increased allocations for NRHM in coming years. It also seeks to sanction new Sub-centres as per 2001 population norm, and upgrading existing Sub-centres, including buildings for Sub-centres functioning in rented premises will be considered.

The PHCs will be strengthened to provide a package of essential public health programmes and support for outreach services to ensure regular supplies of essential drugs and equipment, round the clock services in at least 50% of PHCs across the country, upgrading single doctor PHC to 2 doctors PHC by posting AYUSH practitioners at PHC level and providing standard treatment protocols and training medical officers and para-medical workers in their use.

One of the key strategies of the NRHM is to support upgradation of all Community Health Centres to function as First Referral Units as per the Indian Public Health Standards. The funds for an amout of Rs. 20 lakhs per CHC for 2 CHCs per district are being provided to the States, in the current financial year, 2005-06. It also seeks to strengthen these centres for effective curative care and made measurable and accountable to the community through Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) and integration of vertical Health and Family Welfare Programmes and Funds for optimal utilization of funds and infrastructure and strengthening delivery of primary health care.

Pesticides in vegetables and fruits

1162. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excessive pesticides are found in vegetables and fruits;

(b) if so, its effects on human bodies; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to meet the alarming situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A survey on presence of Pesticide Residues in food products including fruits and vegetables, conducted by Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during 2002-03 indicates the presence of hexachlorocyclot hexane (HCH) residue which is well within the Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) of HCH prescribed under the PFA Rules, 1955. No

other pesticide such as Organophosphorus, Carbamates and Pyrethroids could be detected in these samples.

(c) A Central Sector Scheme in the Ministry of Agriculture for monitoring pesticide residues at National Level has been approved this year in order to ascertain prevalence of Pesticide Residue at farm and market level to enable the remedial measures to be undertaken as required.

The Central and State Governments are implementing training programmes to various extension functionaries, dealers and farmers on the safe and judicious use of pesticides.

Ill-effects of commercialisation of medical services and medical education

1163. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the owners of most of the private sector hospitals and medical colleges are essentially business men and they have reduced medical care to the level of a business or industry by employing over investigation, and performing surgery unnecessarily, keeping brain dead cases on ventilator for days purely for monetary gains;

(b) whether it is also a fact that commercialisation of medical education has resulted into commercialisation of medical practice and ethical standards have fallen and the practice of medicine has become a trade but not a calling; and

(c) what comprehensive measures Government have conceived and implemented to correct, control and contain this evil effectively and efficiently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Government to regulate/monitor the functioning of its hospitals, including private hospitals as well as to ensure that they comply with the norms/regulations prescribed by respective State Governments as well as to take punitive action against private hospitals/ doctors in cases of proven unethical and unscrupulous conduct. In cases of over investigations, unnecessary surgeries, keeping brain dead cases on ventilator etc., the aggrieved party can also take recourse to legal remedies under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 which covers the private hospitals/private medical practitioners.